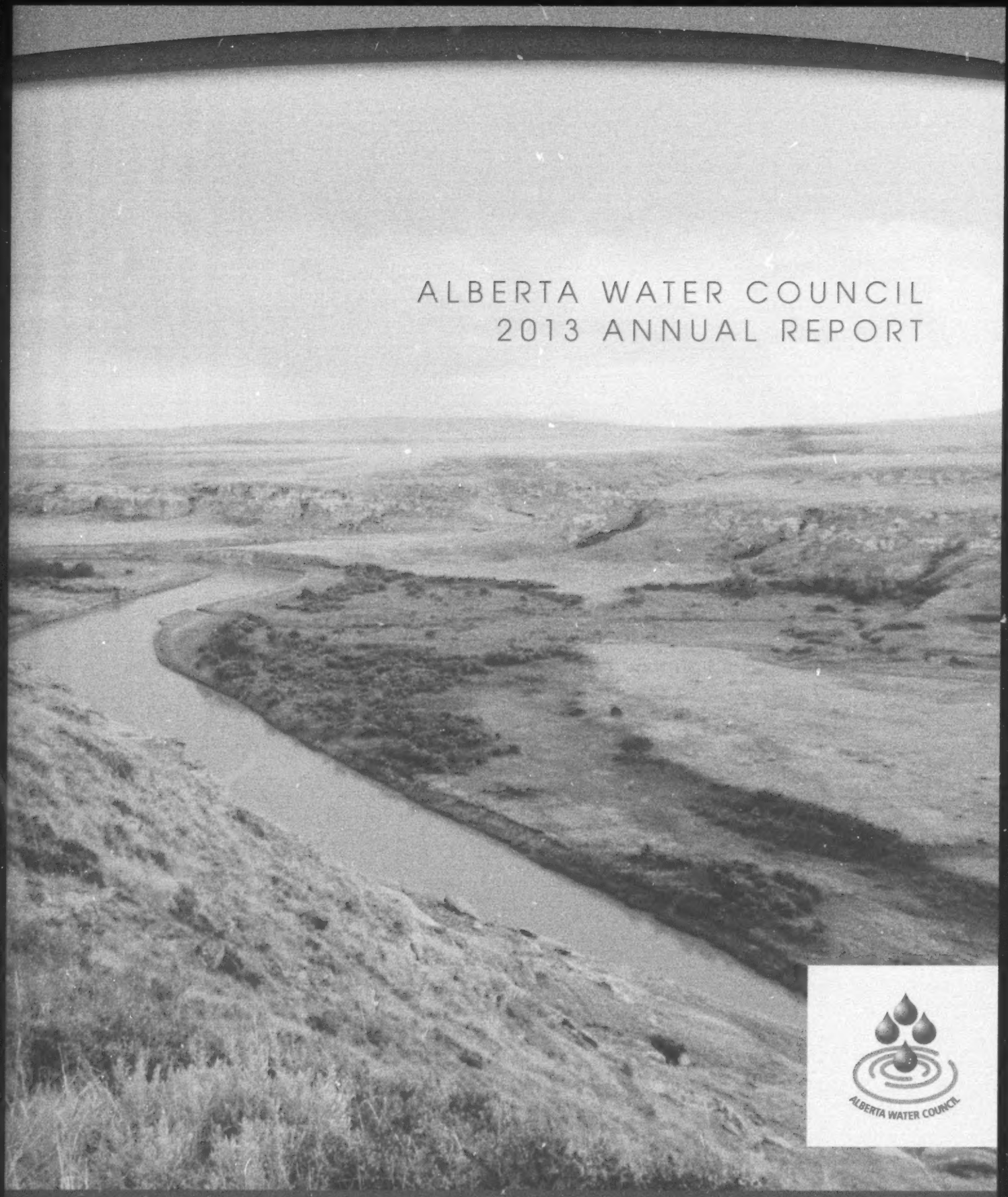
# ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL
# 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



# ABOUT THE ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL

The Alberta Water Council is a multi-stakeholder partnership that provides leadership, expertise and sector knowledge, to engage and empower industry, non-governmental organizations and governments to work collaboratively to achieve the outcomes of the *Water for Life* strategy.

Created in 2004 under Ministerial Order by Alberta's then-Minister of Environment, the Council serves as a unique example of the concept of shared governance. It is one of three types of partnerships named under the *Water for Life* strategy; the others are Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils, and Watershed Stewardship Groups.

The Council regularly reviews implementation of the *Water for Life* strategy and champions the achievement of the strategy's goals. The structure of the renewed *Water for Life* strategy is based on a strong relationship between three goals:

- Safe, secure drinking water;
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems; and
- Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy.

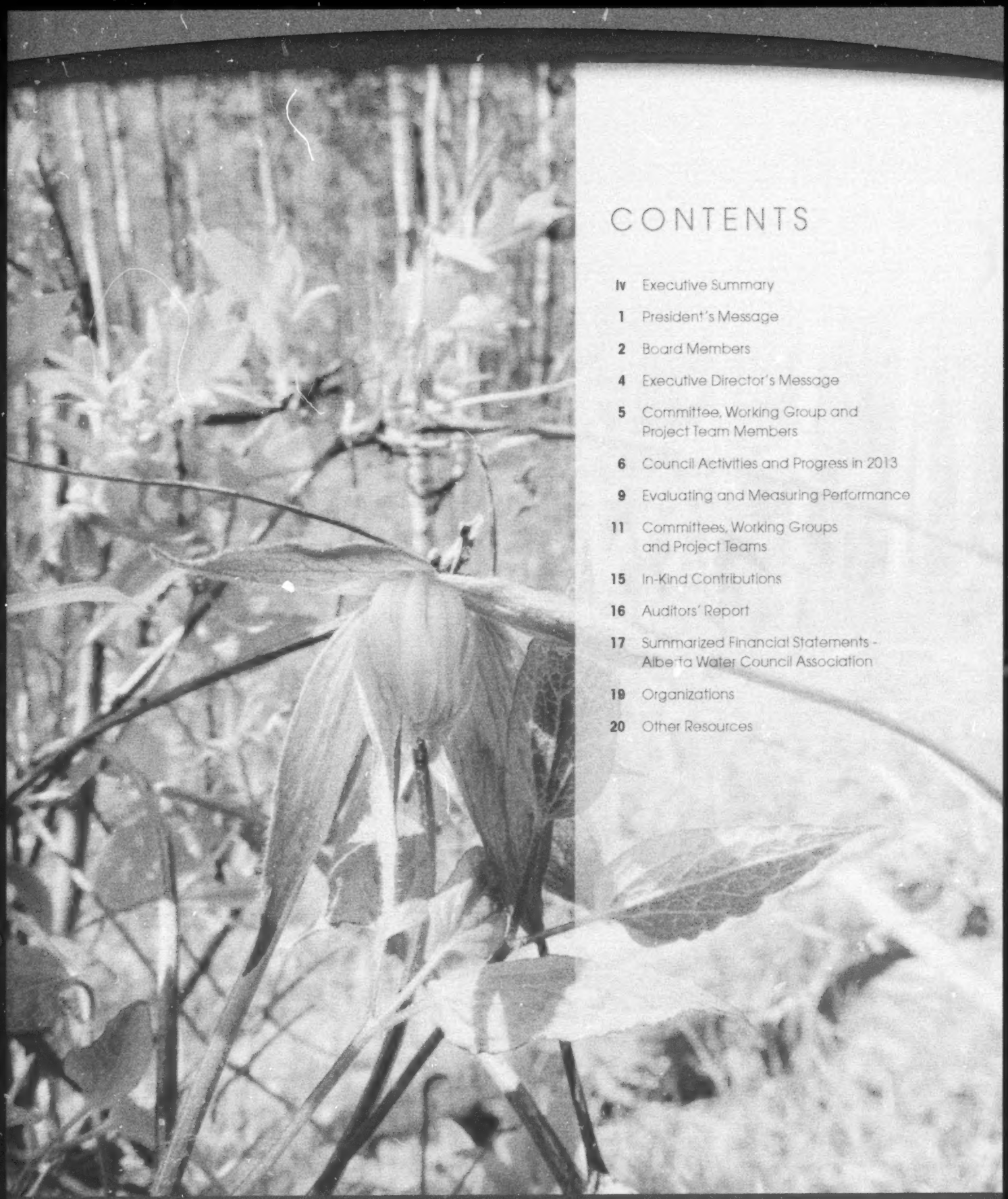
These goals will be met through knowledge and research, partnerships, and water conservation.

The Council also advises the Government of Alberta, stakeholders and the public on effective water management practices and solutions to water issues, as well as on priorities for water research. Where there is consensus, the Council may advise on government policy and legislation. However, the Government of Alberta remains accountable for the implementation of the *Water for Life* strategy, and continues to administer water and watershed management activities throughout the province.

The Council operates by consensus and is guided by an executive committee. It submits reports and recommendations directly to the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and to other stakeholders. In November 2007, the Council was formally incorporated as a not-for-profit society under Alberta's *Societies Act*, with its own bylaws and governance structure. The Council receives an annual grant from the Government of Alberta to cover core operating costs and is responsible for its own financial management.

## About this Report

This is the Council's ninth annual report. It summarizes activities for the calendar year 2013.



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report describes the activities of the Alberta Water Council in 2013. This year, the board of directors approved substantial reports on diverse and current topics. First was the report on Sector Planning for Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (CEP), which included three consensus recommendations that will ensure timely and comprehensive updates on implementation progress of CEP sector plans.

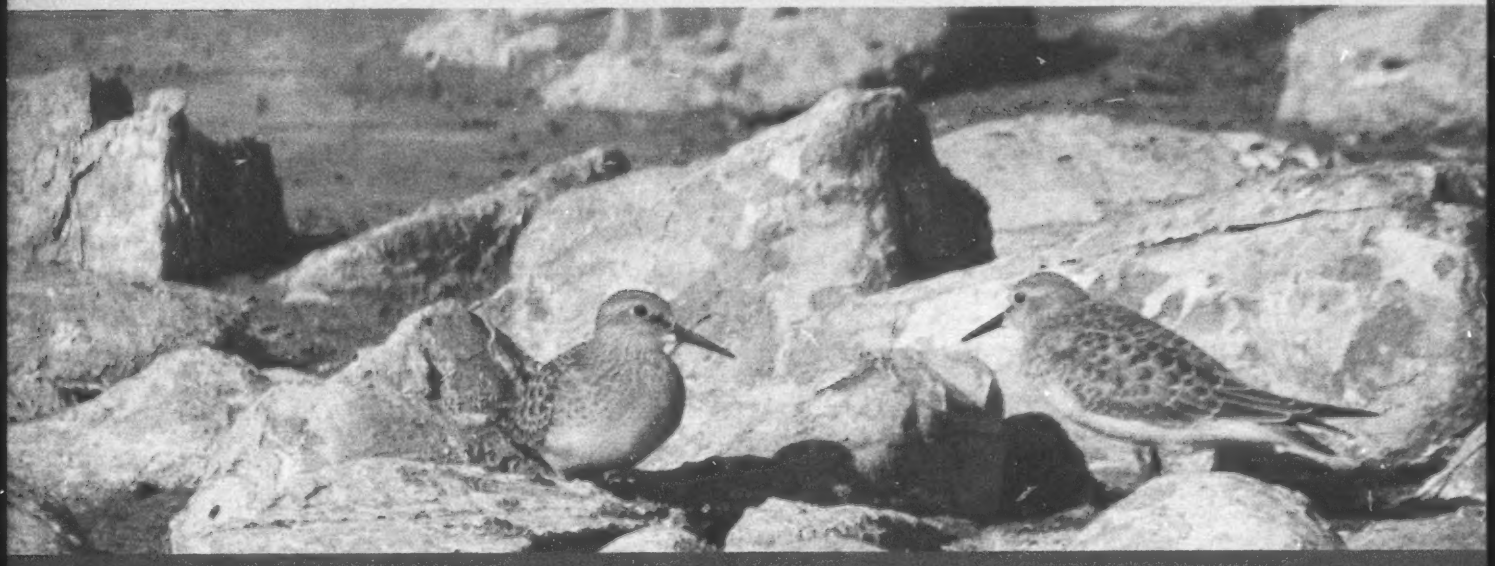
The second report focused on non-point source pollution. Although Alberta is looking more closely at this issue in light of rapid population and economic growth, gaps remain. The Council made five recommendations about how the Government of Alberta can better understand and address non-point source pollution.

Riparian land conservation and management was the third major topic to be completed in 2013. The Council concluded that improved conservation and management of riparian lands could be achieved most effectively through alignment and coordination with cumulative effects management, integrated resource management, regional planning, and watershed planning. Thirteen recommendations were made in support of this direction.

Work advanced on the Water Reuse Symposium, planned for June 2014, and the planning committee finalized the three theme areas for the symposium: Business and Environmental Sustainability, Technology and Innovation, and How to Apply Water Reuse in the Alberta Context. A new team was formed in 2013 to examine the topic of aquatic invasive species. This project will identify gaps and opportunities for improving awareness, communication and coordination of activities by stakeholders in Alberta who are working to prevent and manage the threats of aquatic invasive species. Finally, in response to the Water Conversation, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development asked the Council to begin work on a water literacy initiative, which will inform the Department as it develops a water literacy strategy.

A new Business Plan was approved this year and, as in 2012, the Council met its performance measure targets.

Staff and board members remain active in their outreach within the province and elsewhere, sharing information about the Council and its consensus-based process. For more information on the Alberta Water Council, its publications and activities, please visit the Council's website at www.awchome.ca.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The last year was a very productive one for the Alberta Water Council, and it was my great pleasure to serve as its president. In 2013, our members and stakeholders remained strongly committed and engaged with their work in several diverse and important water policy areas.

Although flood issues dominated water discussions for the last half of the year, we know we need to continue to find ways to use water more efficiently. All seven of Alberta's major water-using sectors are now implementing their voluntary water conservation, efficiency and productivity plans. Recommendations from the project team that supported the development of these plans will ensure that progress and performance are reported in a thorough and timely manner by the end of 2015. Another Council team is also focused on improving water conservation and efficiency with its plans for a water reuse symposium in June 2014. The conference will extend our outreach to new audiences and expand the province's knowledge on this topic.

The board approved reports on two particularly challenging topics this year: non-point source pollution, and riparian land conservation and management. Both reports contain a number of well-considered and detailed recommendations, most of which were appropriately directed to the Government of Alberta. The results were also timely in that they relate to the impacts of flooding as well as flood management and mitigation.

Council's work on another important issue — aquatic invasive species — is expected to lead to new ideas to address this emerging threat to provincial waters. A further key area of activity for the coming year arose from the 2013 water conversations, with the realization that more effort is needed to improve water literacy in Alberta.

Finally, our stakeholders were pleased to see the release of the Alberta Wetland Policy this year, given the Council's previous work in this area. Sectors continue to contribute both fiscal and human resources to support and provide expertise to the Alberta Water Council and its initiatives. Near the end of 2013, my responsibilities shifted. Although I will no longer be involved with the Council, I look forward to following progress and wish the best to the board, stakeholders, staff, and my successor, Bill Werry.

Dana Woodworth

# BOARD MEMBERS

The following were board members as of December 31, 2013, and all gave generously of their time and expertise to advance the Council's work this year.

| Broad Category | Director | Alternate |
|---|---|---|
| **INDUSTRY** | | |
| Chemical and Petrochemical | John Skowronski * | Al Schulz |
| Cropping | Greg Sears | Sharon McKinnon |
| Forestry | Keith Murray | Dan Moore |
| Irrigation | Ron McMullin | Richard Phillips |
| Livestock | Stuart Thiessen | Doug Sawyer |
| Mining | Chris Fordham | Stuart Lunn |
| Oil and Gas | Apu Sharma | John Van Ham |
| Power Generation | Jim Hackett | Ahmed Idriss |
| **NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS** | | |
| Environmental | Carolyn Campbell | Bob Cameron |
| Environmental | Jason Unger | Maureen Bell |
| Fisheries Habitat Conservation | Jeff Surtees | Peter Aku |
| Lake Environment Conservation | Jay White* | Steph Neufeld |
| Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils | Ken Brown | Hugh Sanders |
| Wetland Conservation | Perry McCormick | Tracy Scott |
| **GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA AND PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES** | | |
| Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development | Dave Burdek | Jamie Wuite |
| Alberta Energy | Martin Chamberlain | Audrey Murray |
| Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development | Dana Woodworth* | Rick Blackwood |
| Alberta Health | | Jenny Hong |
| Alberta Innovates – Energy and Environment Solutions | John Zhou | Brett Purdy |
| **OTHER GOVERNMENT** | | |
| Large Urban | Rob Pritchard* | Mark Brostrom |
| Métis Settlements | Mary Onukem | |
| Rural | Al Kemmere | Bob Barss |
| Small Urban | Jenelle Saskiw | Rachel Bocock |
| **EX-OFFICIO** | Gordon Edwards* | |

** Executive member as of December 31, 2013.*

The Council gratefully acknowledges the following individuals who stepped down in 2013:

**DIRECTORS:**

Elaine Bellamy, Lars DePauw, Colin Jeffares

**ALTERNATES:**

Tara Payment, Judy Stewart, Bev Yee

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Council dedicated considerable effort in 2013 to our teams and various aspects of their projects, including communications and outreach. One of the highlights was a news conference early in the year to release the final report from the Sector Planning for Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity team.

The Minister as well as several senior representatives from major water-using sectors participated in this event, which received good media coverage. Other communications activities included a news release for the report on Non-point Source Pollution, four new fact sheets, and a very successful webinar on aquatic invasive species. We will be releasing the final report on Riparian Land Conservation and Management early in 2014.

In October, the board approved a new business plan to see us through from 2014 to 2016. Our board members and stakeholders continued to enthusiastically engage in Council activities and many participated in the Water Conversation sponsored by the Government of Alberta. One of the outcomes of those conversations is new work for the Council in the area of water literacy. This project will provide Environment and Sustainable Resource Development's Education and Outreach section with information that will be foundational toward the development of water literacy initiatives to support the Ministry's new environmental education framework. The board also agreed to take on two other projects, which will be phased in during 2014: source water protection, and managing and monitoring Alberta's lakes.

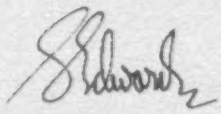
This year saw several staff changes as well. Sunny Yeung took on a bigger role handling the Council's financial and accounting matters, bringing in some changes that have improved efficiency and cost-effectiveness. In the fall, Terry Sly announced that he will be retiring in early 2014. Terry has been with the Council since it was established in 2004 as a Minister's Advisory Committee; his leadership and experience have greatly benefitted our organization and he will be missed. Starting in January, Meredith Walker and Andre Asselin will be assuming new responsibilities and duties.

Finally, I would like to thank Dana Woodworth for his leadership and guidance this past year, and I look forward to working with Bill Werry in 2014.

## OUR TEAM AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013

**Executive director** – Gordon Edwards
**Senior project manager** – Terry Sly
**Project managers:**
Andre Asselin
Alesha Hill
Meredith Walker

**Contractors:**
**Accounting** – Sunny Yeung
**Project management** – Petra Rowell
**Policy and communications** – Kim Sanderson



Gordon K. Edwards

# COMMITTEE, WORKING GROUP AND PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

The following individuals contributed their time and expertise to Council committees, working groups and project teams in 2013, and the Council gratefully acknowledges their commitment and support.

This list also includes individuals who led or helped to prepare statements of opportunity for projects the Council considered in determining its future work. The Council also thanks the many other individuals from various stakeholder groups who reviewed documents, responded to surveys, and volunteered their time in support of our activities.

Angela Alambets
Norine Ambrose
Ron Axelson
Clara Bartha
Maureen Bell
Tasha Blumenthal
Rachel Bocock
Rick Bonar
Greg Bowie
Ken Brown
Brenda Casella
Yin Deong
Gord Edwards
John Englert
Jim Fujikawa
Dave Hayman
Scott Hillier
Joey Hurley
Glenn Isaac
Mike Jenkins
Andrea Kalischuk
Al Kemmere
Carolyn Kolebaba
Daniel Laubhann
Tony Machacek
Bernd Manz
Sharon McKinnon
Ron McMullin
Brian Meagher
Donna Mendelsohn
Scott Millar
Valerie Moore
Julienne Morissette
Keith Murray
Stephanie Neufeld
Jennifer Nitschelm
Dwight Oliver
Tara Payment
Sarah Pearce
Edith Philips
Norma Posada
Rob Pritchard
Karen Raven
Lynn Robb
Al Schulz
Kelly Scott
Tracy Scott
Nicole Seitz
Martin Shields
John Skowronski
Judy Stewart
Jeff Surtees
Jon Sweetman
Joan Tingley
Jason Unger
Martin VanOlst
Jay White
John Willis
Kate Wilson
Dana Woodworth
Jamie Wulfe
Fayi Zhou
Ron Zurawell

The Council also notes with sadness the death this year of Bob Phillips, Executive Director of the South East Alberta Watershed Alliance. Bob actively contributed to a previous Council team, "Moving from Words to Action," representing Alberta WPACs and bringing his and their perspective to the table.

# COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS IN 2013

This year, the Council continued operations in the final year of its 2010 – 2013 business plan. Each of the plan's three areas of core business has a specific goal and several strategies to achieve the goal. Activities in 2013 supported progress in core businesses and goals two and three, as reflected in the chart below. The areas of Council activity for 2013 are described in more detail later in this report, under the work of the appropriate committee, working group or project team. A report on performance measures appears in the next section.

## 1

### CORE BUSINESS

Steward the Implementation of *Water for Life*

#### GOAL

The implementation of the *Water for Life* Strategy is reviewed in a timely and thorough manner.

#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

A. Percentage of Council members contributing to the *Water for Life Implementation Review* report, which is due 18 months after the period under review.

#### AREAS OF COUNCIL ACTIVITY IN 2013

N/A

## 2

### CORE BUSINESS

Provide Valued Policy Advice

#### GOAL

Alberta Water Council's policy recommendations are timely, based on credible information, implementable, have consensus and support *Water for Life* goals and timelines

#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

A. Percentage of projects completed in the timeline prescribed in the approved project terms of reference.

B. Percentage of issues identified by Council project teams addressed with consensus recommendations.

#### AREAS OF COUNCIL ACTIVITY IN 2013

- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Non-Point Source Pollution
- Riparian Land Conservation and Management
- Sector Planning for Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity

# 3

## CORE BUSINESS

Provide a Forum for Discussion and Resolution of Water Issues

### GOAL

Alberta Water Council has an effective process for sectors to discuss and resolve water management issues.

### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

A. Percentage of directors satisfied that the Council's processes and communications are addressing the needs of the board.

B. Percentage of identified process gaps being appropriately addressed within six months of coming to the Council's attention.

### AREAS OF COUNCIL ACTIVITY IN 2013

- Sector Planning for Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity
- Symposium on Exploring Water Reuse for Household, Municipal and Industrial Applications
- Communications

It is year, the board agreed to track progress in implementing its recommendations on an annual basis. A progress report will be submitted to the board at the March meeting for information and discussion. As part of the Council's ongoing efforts to remain focused on important and relevant activities, the Government of Alberta began providing updates at each board meeting on water issues and Government initiatives in related areas.

The Council published two major reports in 2013, summarizing its work on non-point source pollution, and water conservation, efficiency and productivity. Two sectors (irrigation and urban municipalities) presented progress reports on the implementation of their water conservation, efficiency and productivity plans. The final report on riparian land conservation and management was completed this year and will be released early in 2014.

In October, the board approved a new business plan for 2014 – 2016, the board also received three Statements of Opportunity in October and agreed to undertake work in all three areas: Water Literacy, Managing and Monitoring Alberta's Lakes, and Source Water Protection. Activity will be phased and the timing managed so as not to overextend capacity of stakeholder groups. The first topic to be tackled will be Water Literacy, a project intended to inform Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development's Education and Outreach section as they develop water literacy initiatives to support the Ministry's new environmental education framework. The Council will establish a working group early in 2014 to prepare draft terms of reference for this project.

# EVALUATING AND MEASURING PERFORMANCE

The Alberta Water Council fully supports the tenet "what gets measured gets done." It is important for the Council to demonstrate to itself, stakeholders and the public that its three goals are being achieved, which makes performance measures an essential part of the Council's business plan. The Executive Committee, on behalf of the board is responsible for evaluating and reporting on the Council's performance each year. This is the second year for the Council to report on its performance in the annual report.

## Setting Priorities

**2013 was the final year of the Council's previous business plan. The business plan identifies goals, strategies and performance measures to guide the Council as it strives to achieve its mandate.**

## Performance Measures

The Council has five performance measures, one for the first goal and two each for goals 2 and 3.

1

**GOAL 1**

The implementation of the *Water for Life* Strategy is reviewed in a timely and thorough manner.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE 1A: Percentage of Alberta Water Council members contributing to the *Water for Life Implementation Review* report, which is due 18 months after the period under review.

**Target:** 90% of Council members contribute to the *Water for Life Implementation Review* report.

**Results:** The Council regularly reviews implementation progress of the *Water for Life* strategy. However, the review is not done on an annual basis, and thus this performance measure is not assessed every year. The last review covered the period from 2009 to 2011 and performance was evaluated in the 2012 annual report. The Council plans to conduct the next review in 2015 – 2016 and will report on this performance measure when that review is completed.

2

**GOAL 2**

Alberta Water Council's policy recommendations are timely, based on credible information, implementable, have consensus and support *Water for Life* goals and timelines.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE 2A: Percentage of projects completed in the timeline prescribed in the approved project terms of reference.

**Target:** 100%

**Results:** The target of 100% was met. Of the five active Council projects, three were scheduled for completion in 2013. The Sector Planning for Water Conservation Efficiency and Productivity, and Non-Point Source Pollution projects were both completed in March. The Riparian Land Conservation and Management project team completed its work in October.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE 2B: Percentage of issues identified by Alberta Water Council project teams addressed with consensus recommendations.

**Target:** 85%

**Results:** The target was met and surpassed. Of the 23 issues identified by project teams, 21 (91%) were addressed with consensus recommendations.

Three project teams completed their work in 2013. The Non-Point Source Pollution team's report included five consensus recommendations and had no outstanding issues that needed to be addressed. The Riparian Land Conservation and Management team's report contained 13 consensus recommendations and had no outstanding issues that needed to be addressed.

The Sector Planning for Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (CEP) team's report made three consensus recommendations. During the discussions leading to these recommendations, some topics were considered by some team members to be outside the project scope. Other members held the view that these matters needed to be addressed for CEP planning to achieve its full potential. Expressed broadly, these unresolved issues were: (1) the relationship between water licensing, allocation and CEP planning, and (2) the expectation that CEP plans explicitly contribute to the *Water for Life* goal of healthy aquatic ecosystems. While consensus was not reached on how to address those two issues, the last section of the CEP report describes the various perspectives.

## 3 GOAL 3

Alberta Water Council has an effective process for sectors to discuss and resolve water management issues.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE 3A: Percentage of directors satisfied that the Alberta Water Council's processes and communications are addressing the needs of the board.

**Target:** 85% of directors are satisfied with the communications strategy and its implementation.

**Results**: The target for this performance measure was met and surpassed with 95% of directors who responded to the poll expressing their satisfaction with the communications strategy and its implementation.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE 3B: Percentage of identified process gaps being appropriately addressed within 6 months of coming to the Alberta Water Council's attention.

**Target**: 100%

**Results:** The Council reviews its process guidelines on a three-year cycle. Several process issues were identified and addressed during the last review in 2012, and no other process gaps have been identified since then. This performance measure requires that process gaps be identified before they can be addressed, so it is possible that this performance measure will not be assessed every year.

# COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND PROJECT TEAMS

Committees, working groups and project teams are where much of Council's substantive work is done. Like the Council, these multi-stakeholder bodies make decisions by consensus.

**Committees** are typically formed to deal with administrative matters and often carry on their work from year to year. Occasionally, a committee is formed for a specific activity.

**Working groups** are formed when the Council decides that more detailed work is needed in an area. The main purpose of a working group is to scope the issue and recommend how it could be addressed. This usually involves preparing terms of reference for a project team.

**Project teams** are established to investigate particular water issues thoroughly and come back to Council with a report and recommendations. Terms of reference for each team are available on the Council's website.

This section briefly describes the accomplishments of each committee, working group and project team.

Reports from Council teams are available online at www.awchome.ca.

## Committees

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Council is guided by a five-person Executive Committee, which includes a member from each of the four broad categories plus the executive director. The Executive Committee provides financial and statutory oversight on behalf of the board, sets the agenda for each board meeting, and responds to issues that arise between meetings, giving guidance to staff or handling the matter directly, as appropriate. Executive members liaise with Ministers and monitor the board's effectiveness and adherence to Council policies and procedures. Along with Council Directors, they also communicate with the media when required. As well, the Executive Committee leads communications, strategic and business planning activities.

In 2013, the Executive Committee oversaw the development of a new Business Plan, to take the Council through to 2016. The Business Plan guides the Council's strategic direction and focus and is the basis for its annual operating plan. A workshop in June laid the foundation for the new plan. An environmental scan informed the workshop and further feedback from board members led to the refinement and adoption of the new plan in October. Several areas of the plan, including the strategies, were updated to reflect the organization's growth and activities since the previous plan was prepared.

Implementation of the Communications Strategy and Action Plan continued through 2013, using various tools to strengthen the Council's communications activities. Several new fact sheets, focusing on topics of Council activity, were published and posted to the website and are intended for use by all stakeholders. A very successful news conference, attended by the Minister and several sector representatives, was held to release the final report on water conservation, efficiency and productivity. The event was well-covered by all forms of media. A media release was also issued for the non-point source pollution report and recommendations.

### WATER REUSE SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE

The Water Reuse Symposium Committee continued its work to flesh out ideas for this timely topic and by October, had developed a program for a conference to be held in June 2014 in Calgary. Entitled "Re-Fresh: The Confluence of Ideas and Opportunities on Water Reuse," the three theme areas are: Business and Environmental Sustainability, Technology and Innovation, and How to Apply Water Reuse in the Alberta Context. By the end of 2013, the committee had prepared a communications strategy and sponsorship package and was contacting potential speakers. An event website was also established at www.awcreusesymposium.ca.

## Working Groups and Project Teams

### AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Aquatic invasive species are becoming increasingly problematic across Canada and the United States, with negative impacts on economic and social activities and on aquatic ecosystems. Once such species are established, they are nearly impossible to eradicate. Although to date, Alberta has been relatively unaffected compared to other jurisdictions, the risk of this problem is growing. Work is underway in some parts of Alberta to prevent the establishment of aquatic invasive species, but these efforts are neither consistent nor coordinated across the province.

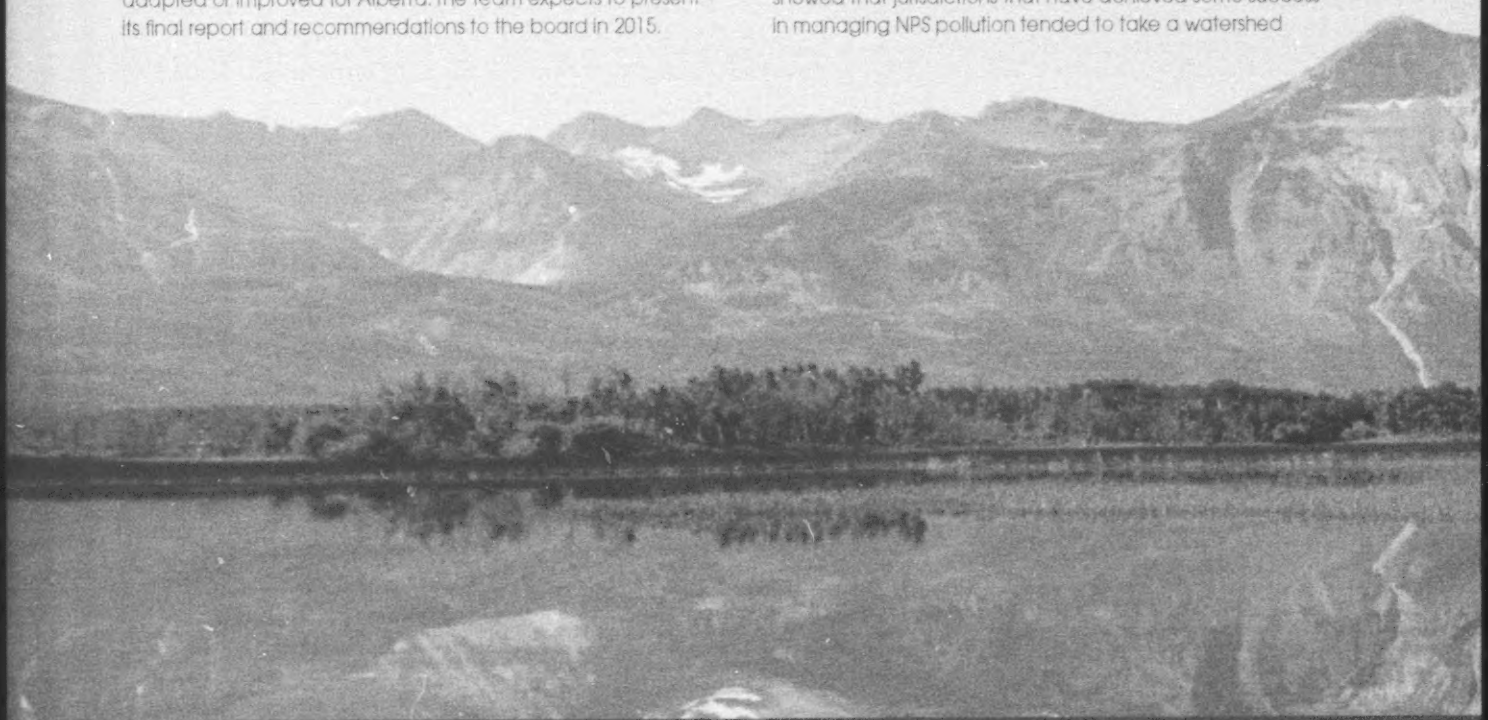
In 2012, the Council agreed to examine the topic of aquatic invasive species. It created a working group to further scope the issue and develop terms of reference for an Aquatic Invasive Species project team, which were approved in June this year. The project will identify gaps and opportunities for improving awareness, communication and coordination of activities by stakeholders in Alberta who are working to prevent and manage the threats of aquatic invasive species. The team will review the prevention and management strategies in place in other jurisdictions, how their stakeholders are collaborating to achieve shared outcomes, and how these strategies could be adapted or improved for Alberta. The team expects to present its final report and recommendations to the board in 2015.

### NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION

The Non-Point Source Pollution project team was established to make recommendations on how to better manage total non-point source contaminant loadings to achieve *Water for Life* goals. Non-point source (NPS) pollution is contamination that enters a water body from many dispersed points of discharge and has no single point of origin. It contrasts with point source emissions, which are licensed and controlled releases.

The team worked to better understand the "state of" NPS pollution knowledge in Alberta and elsewhere, then examined the tools that characterize and aid in the management of NPS pollution. This involved two information-gathering phases with consultants to provide a solid foundation for the eventual recommendations. Team members also worked closely with their sector members to get input and feedback.

In early 2013, the team presented its findings and recommendations to the board. It noted that the extent and contribution of NPS pollution in any given water body in Alberta is relatively unknown. To effectively manage watershed health, we need a good understanding of all sources of pollution along with policies and tools that can be used to minimize their impacts. One of the studies commissioned for this project showed that jurisdictions that have achieved some success in managing NPS pollution tended to take a watershed



approach; they also have a clear lead agency, good baseline data, ongoing monitoring and assessment, a sound regulatory framework and effective enforcement program, and strategic partnerships with both government and non-government bodies.

Science plays a very important role in underpinning virtually all of the elements needed to successfully address this issue. Alberta is starting to look more closely at NPS pollution as population growth and economic development continue at a rapid pace, but gaps remain and that is where the recommendations were focused. The report, *Recommendations to Improve Non-Point Source Pollution Management in Alberta*, makes five specific recommendations directed to the Government of Alberta that reflect the need for knowledge and tools to determine:

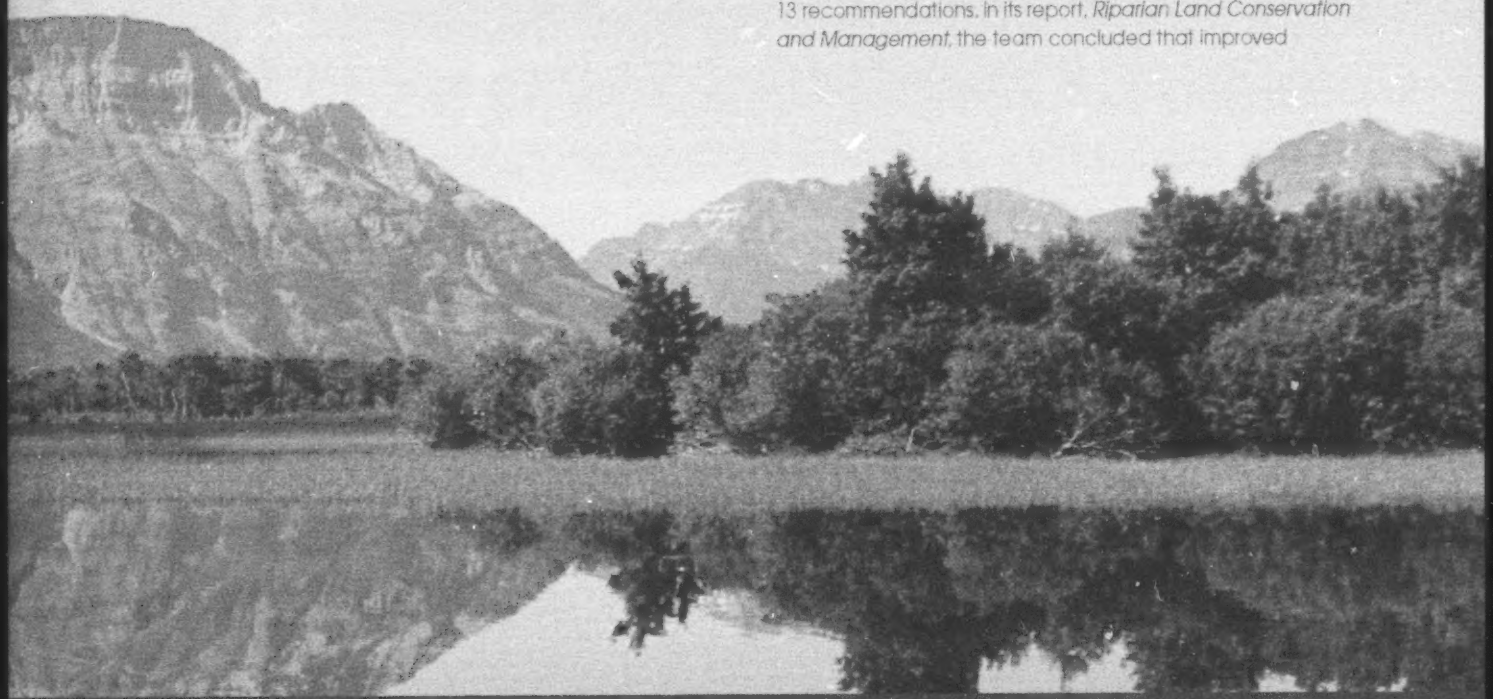
- How much non-point source pollution there is (quantification)
- Where it is coming from (research)
- If it is a problem (evaluation)
- What we can do about it (mitigation).

## RIPARIAN LAND CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Riparian Land Conservation and Management project team was established in 2011 to enhance knowledge and recommend ways to effectively conserve and manage riparian lands in support of *Water for Life* goals. One of the first tasks was to develop a common scientific and ecological definition of "riparian lands" that could be used across all sectors. Other key tasks included documenting the state of riparian lands, management and stewardship in Alberta along with best practices in other jurisdictions; evaluating the state of riparian lands, management and stewardship against the needs of all relevant sectors; and recommending ways to improve riparian land conservation and management in Alberta.

The team engaged a consultant to prepare a background report, entitled *Current State of Riparian Lands in Alberta, and the Management and Stewardship "Best Practices" (Policy, Practices and Procedures) in Alberta and Other Jurisdictions*. This comprehensive document provided a great deal of valuable information that identified what is working well, what needs improvement and barriers to improved management and conservation. It also suggested a number of strategies and approaches that could be considered to improve management and conservation of riparian lands.

In October, the board approved the team's final report and its 13 recommendations. In its report, *Riparian Land Conservation and Management*, the team concluded that improved



land management could be achieved most effectively through alignment and coordination with cumulative effects management, integrated resource management, regional planning and watershed planning. However, progress on improving riparian land conservation and management should not be delayed by timelines for land use and watershed planning initiatives. Strong provincial leadership and coordination are needed to ensure riparian management stays at the forefront of land and water planning.

All recommendations were directed to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and to the Government of Alberta as a whole, with implementation timelines ranging from six months to five years.

## SECTOR PLANNING FOR WATER CONSERVATION, EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY

The *Water for Life Action Plan* (2009) calls for water conservation, efficiency and productivity (CEP) plans to be prepared by all major water-using sectors. This team promoted and assisted the development of sector CEP plans by the seven major water-using sectors that account for most of the allocated water in Alberta. It also served as a forum for sectors to exchange ideas and discuss experiences and challenges as they developed their plans. The seven sectors are: Chemical Producers, Downstream Petroleum Products, Forestry, Irrigation, Power Generation, Upstream Oil and Gas (including oil sands), and Urban Municipalities. The plans contain targets and benchmarks that reflect the unique circumstances of each sector and identify a range of opportunities for sector members to contribute to achieving the overall conservation goals in the *Water for Life* strategy.

With the completion of the sector CEP plans, the next phase of work will entail monitoring and evaluating progress. All sectors have committed to implementing their plans and reporting progress to the Alberta Water Council. Each sector plan has its own performance measures on which it will report; these will be used to evaluate progress and performance and to determine the overall contributions of sectors to meeting the *Water for Life* goals and key directions. All sectors agreed to report back to the Council on their implementation progress by the end of 2015.

The board approved the final report and recommendations for this project in early 2013. The report, *Sector Planning for Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity*, contains three recommendations, two of which pertain to the timing and content of the progress reports. The third will see the establishment of a new multi-stakeholder team to determine how to measure overall success of the plans in helping to achieve the 30% improvement in efficiency and productivity of water use by 2015.

The team also documented gaps and potential improvements to the framework and process for developing possible future sector plans. And for the benefit of future work, the team included a summation of its discussions on water management initiatives and policy that are broadly relevant to water CEP planning and would benefit from further discussion and clarification.

# IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

In-kind support is a cornerstone of the Council's ability to address complex water management issues and is extremely valuable in helping the Council to complete its work. Industry, government and non-government organizations have all provided such support, largely through the participation of their staff. A number of organizations have also hosted meetings and other events.

The Council has tried to assign a dollar value to this support by examining time and travel costs and other contributions, but can confidently say that the true value of these contributions is both under-recorded and underestimated.

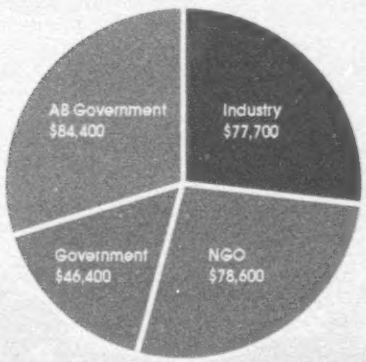
The total in-kind contributions of time for 2013 amounted to nearly 2,300 hours, which represents almost $240,000 in donated time. The chart below shows these in-kind contributions from the four broad stakeholder categories.

The Council also acknowledges Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development for hosting the June board meeting, and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers for its contribution to the October recognition event. Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development's advance contribution toward the Water Reuse Symposium enabled the Council to secure the venue and hire an events coordinator. Alberta Irrigation Projects Association, Bow River Irrigation District, City of Calgary – Water Resources, and Taber Irrigation District all provided financial support for the Aquatic Invasive Species project.

In addition to these contributions and those noted in the chart, the Government of Alberta provided office space to the Council in 2013.

The Alberta Water Council gratefully acknowledges all the generous contributions from its stakeholders.

AWC IN-KIND
CASH EQUIVALENT



# AUDITORS' REPORT

HAWKINGS EPP DUMONT LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Directors Alberta Water Council Association

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2013, the summary statement of operations, and the summary statement of changes in net assets for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of the Alberta Water Council Association for the year ended December 31, 2013. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated January 24, 2014. Those financial statements, and the summary financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of the Alberta Water Council Association.

*Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

*Auditors' Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard 810 — *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

*Opinion*

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of the Alberta Water Council Association for the year ended December 31, 2013 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP

Edmonton, Alberta
February 11, 2014

HAWKINGS EPP DUMONT LLP
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# SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL ASSOCIATION

## Statement of Financial Position

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2013

| | 2013 | 2012 |
|---|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | | |
| CURRENT | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 713,795 | $ 1,258,023 |
| Accounts receivable | 25,095 | 14,549 |
| Prepaid expenses | 21,803 | 7,768 |
| | 760,693 | 1,280,340 |
| TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS | 3,909 | 10,316 |
| | $ 764,602 | $ 1,290,656 |
| **LIABILITIES** | | |
| CURRENT | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | $ 32,959 | $ 28,345 |
| Deferred contributions | 731,143 | 1,259,435 |
| | 764,102 | 1,287,780 |
| DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS — TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS | - | 2,376 |
| | 764,102 | 1,290,156 |
| **NET ASSETS** | | |
| Unrestricted net assets (deficit) | (3,409) | (7,440) |
| Invested in tangible capital assets | 3,909 | 7,940 |
| | 500 | 500 |
| | $ 764,602 | $ 1,290,656 |

# Statement of Operations

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013

| | 2013 | 2012 |
|---|---|---|
| **REVENUE** | | |
| Grants | $ 810,792 | $ 860,646 |
| Interest | 8,715 | 15,721 |
| Amortization of deferred contributions — tangible capital assets | 2,379 | 17,535 |
| Donations | 500 | 16,000 |
| | 822,386 | 909,902 |
| **EXPENSES** | | |
| Salaries and wages | 513,787 | 522,974 |
| Director and stakeholder support | 93,740 | 116,705 |
| Professional fees | 84,445 | 12,500 |
| Administration | 50,787 | 48,232 |
| Sub-contracts | 24,470 | 145,844 |
| Travel | 23,528 | 19,078 |
| Rental | 10,333 | 10,345 |
| Insurance | 9,540 | 9,777 |
| Amortization | 9,200 | 22,911 |
| Advertising | 2,556 | 1,110 |
| Meals | – | 426 |
| | 822,386 | 909,902 |
| **EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES** | $ – | $ – |

# Statement of Changes in Net Assets

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013

| | Unrestricted Net Assets (Deficit) | Invested in Tangible Capital Assets | 2013 | 2012 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **NET ASSETS — BEGINNING OF YEAR** | $ (7,440) | $ 7,940 | $ 500 | $ 500 |
| Tangible capital asset purchases | (2,790) | 2,790 | – | – |
| Amortization of tangible capital assets | 9,200 | (9,200) | – | – |
| Amortization of deferred contributions — tangible capital assets | (2,379) | 2,379 | – | – |
| **NET ASSETS — END OF YEAR** | $ (3,409) | $ 3,909 | $ 500 | $ 500 |

# ORGANIZATIONS

The following organizations supported the Alberta Water Council through their generous in-kind contributions in 2013. These commitments have been instrumental in helping the Council undertake its work and are deeply appreciated. The Council also values the contributions from the many organizations that have been engaged behind the scenes and are too numerous to track.

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties
Alberta Beef Producers
Alberta Canola Producers Commission
Alberta Chamber of Resources
Alberta Conservation Association
Alberta Energy
Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
Alberta Environmental Network
Alberta Forest Products Association
Alberta Health
Alberta Innovates – Energy & Environmental Solutions – Water Resources
Alberta Irrigation Projects Association
Alberta Lake Management Society
Alberta Municipal Affairs
Alberta Newsprint Company
Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society – Cows and Fish
Alberta Transportation
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
Alberta WaterSMART
Alberta Wilderness Association
Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd.
Aquatera Utilities Inc.
ATCO Power Ltd.
Athabasca Watershed Council
Battle River Watershed Alliance
Beaver River Watershed Alliance
Bow River Basin Council
Bow River Irrigation District
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
Canadian Fuels Association
Capital Power
Chemistry Industry Association of Canada
City of Brooks
City of Calgary
City of Edmonton
Clearwater County
ConocoPhillips Canada
Crop Sector Working Group
Devon Canada Corporation
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Environmental Law Centre
Environment Canada
EPCOR Water Services Inc.
Esso Imperial Oil Resources
Fish Habitat Conservation Collective
Hinton Wood Products Woodland A Division of West Fraser Mills Ltd.
Intensive Livestock Working Group
Land Stewardship Centre of Canada
Lesser Slave Watershed Council
Métis Settlements General Council
Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance
Milk River Watershed Council Canada
Mountain View County
Municipal District of Wainwright
Namaka Farms
Natural Resources Conservation Board
Nexen
North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
Oldman Watershed Council
Penn West Energy Exploration
Red Deer River Watershed Alliance
South East Alberta Watershed Alliance
South Peace Environmental Association
Suncor Energy
Taber Irrigation District
TransAlta Corporation
Trout Unlimited Canada – Alberta Chapter
Village of Marwayne
Water Conservation Trust of Canada

# OTHER RESOURCES

The Alberta Water Council's reports and fact sheets can be obtained from the Council's website or on request to Council staff. Other agencies and organizations have published materials that have been useful to the Council and may be of interest to readers. Some of these are noted below.

## Alberta Water Council Documents

The following documents are available on the Alberta Water Council website at www.awchome.ca.

- *Riparian Land Conservation and Management* (2013)
- *Sector Planning for Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity* (2013)
- *Recommendations to Improve Non-Point Source Pollution Management in Alberta* (2013)
- *Moving from Words to Actions - Recommendations to improve communication, coordination and collaboration between and among Water for Life partnerships* (2011)
- *Consensus Decision-Making Toolkit* (2010), published with the Clean Air Strategic Alliance
- *Provincial Ecological Criteria for Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems: Recommendations from the Alberta Water Council* (2009)
- *Recommended Projects to Advance the Goal of Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems* (2009)
- *Recommendations for Improving Alberta's Water Allocation Transfer System* (2009)
- *Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems - A Working Definition* (2008)
- *Water for Life , Recommendations for Renewal* (2008)
- *Intra-Basin Water Movement: Major Principles and Recommendations* (2008)
- *Recommendations for Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Sector Planning* (2008)
- *Strengthening Partnerships: A Shared Governance Framework for Water for Life Collaborative Partnership* (2008)
- *Recommendations for a New Alberta Wetland Policy* (2008)
- *Recommendations for an Alberta Wetland Policy Implementation Plan* (2008)
- *Recommendations for a Watershed Management Planning Framework for Alberta* (2008)
- *Intra-Basin Water Movement Inter-jurisdictional Research Report* (2008)
- *Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity: Principles, Definitions, Performance Measures and Environmental Indicators* (2007)
- *Water Policy Issues and Gaps* (2007)
- *Review of Implementation Progress of Water for Life , 2009 - 2011* (2011)
- *Review of Implementation Progress of Water for Life , 2006 - 2008* (2009)
- *Review of Implementation Progress of Water for Life , 2005 - 2006* (2007)
- *Review of Implementation Progress of Water for Life, 2004 - 2005* (2005)
- *2010 - 2013 Business Plan* (2010)
- *Water Research Strategy* (2006), published by the Alberta Science and Research Authority

### Annual Reports

- *Alberta Water Council 2012 Annual Report*
- *Alberta Water Council 2011 Annual Report*
- *Alberta Water Council 2010 Annual Report*
- *Alberta Water Council 2009 Annual Report*
- *Alberta Water Council 2008 Annual Report*
- *Alberta Water Council 2007 Annual Report*
- *Alberta Water Council 2005 - 2006 Annual Report*
- *Alberta Water Council 2004 - 2005 Annual Report*

## Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (CEP) Sector Plans

Alberta's seven major water-using sectors have prepared CEP plans. These plans were voluntarily prepared and subsequently adopted by their respective sector organizations. In accordance with the Council's Framework for sector plan development (see *Recommendations for Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Sector Planning*, 2008), the completed CEP plans were presented to the Council for information only, not for approval or endorsement. The original plans are available on the Council's website at www.awchome.ca/Projects/WaterCEP/tabid/115/Default.aspx.

## Other Resources

### *Water for Life* Strategy and Related Documents

A number of documents related to the *Water for Life* strategy are available online at www.waterforlife.alberta.ca

### Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils

(see http://albertawpacs.ca/ for more details)

- Athabasca Watershed Council, www.awc-wpac.ca
- Battle River Watershed Alliance, www.battleriverwatershed.ca
- Beaver River Watershed Alliance, www.beaverriverwatershed.ca
- Bow River Basin Council, www.brbc.ab.ca
- Lesser Slave Lake Watershed Council, www.lswc.ca
- Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance, www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org
- Milk River Watershed Council Canada, www.milkriverwatershedcouncil.ca
- North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, www.nswa.ab.ca
- Oldman Watershed Council, www.oldmanbasin.org
- Red Deer River Watershed Alliance, www.rdrwa.ca
- South East Alberta Watershed Alliance, www.seawa.ca

### Other Alberta Resources and Websites

- Alberta Stewardship Network, http://landstewardship.org/ASN
- Alberta Innovates – Energy and Environment Solutions, www.waterinstitute.ca

NOTES

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